Item # 111

#### Meredith, Maureen

### June 28, 2012 City Council Hearing NPA-2012-0025.01

From:

Frank Bryan ·

Sent:

Friday, June 22, 2012 4:27 PM

To:

Meredith, Maureen

Subject:

NPA-2012-0025.01 - 4806 1/2 Trail West Drive

#### Dear Ms. Meredith:

I submit that the above-referenced proposed neighborhood plan amendment does not comply with the City of Austin Land Development Code (LDC) in the following ways:

- 1. The Applicant, Independent Realty, is not the "record owner" or "record owner's agent" and, therefore, is not authorized under LDC 25-1-81 to file an application to amend a neighborhood plan or to rezone property. The letter from AISD to Mr. Greg Guernsey (City of Austin, Planning and Development Review), dated February 2, 2012, (p. 19, backup materials) does not authorize Independent Realty to act as AISD's agent. The letter merely states that AISD is "aware of" Independent Realty's actions and "has no objection" to such. Nowhere in this letter is there a grant of authority from AISD to Independent Realty to do anything.
- 2. The Planning Commission has not held a public hearing on Independent Realty's current proposed neighborhood plan amendment—as required by LDC 25-1-806. The Planning Commission hearing held on May 22, 2012, voted on an entirely different proposed neighborhood plan amendment than the one that is now before the City Council. The amendment voted on by the Planning Commission consisted of a change from "Civic" to "Single Family" for the entire 12.45 acre tract. The proposed amendment before the City Council divides the tract into a donut shaped area with the donut hole area being changed from "Civic" to "Single Family" and the donut area being changed from "Civic" to "Open Space/Recreation".
- 3. None of the notices sent by the City of Austin to residents living within 500 feet of the property provided any notice, under LDC 25-1-32 or 25-1-33, that the proposed amendment to the neighborhood plan included a change from "Civic" to "Open Space/Recreation". All of the prior notices were limited to notice that the neighborhood plan would be changed from "Civic" to "Single Family". Therefore, the prior notices were deficient to notify residents of the proposed change that will be submitted to City Council on June 28, 2012.
- 4. The "pre-application meeting" between Independent Realty and city staff (see LDC 25-1-804), if any, could not have satisfied LDC 25-1-804 because Independent Realty's proposed FLUM change, at that time, included different boundaries, different FLUM categories, and different proposed uses, than the current proposal pending before City Council.

Please let me know the City's position with respect to its compliance with the LDC sections referenced above.

Regards,

Frank W. Bryan, Jr.

Frank W. Bryan, Jr. Law Office of Frank Bryan 610 Brazos Street, Suite 660 Austin, Texas 78701

Office: (512) 322-9977 Cell: (512) 626-9808 Fax: (512) 692-2793

The content of this e-mail, including attachments, is privileged and confidential.

#### Meredith, Maureen

From:

Dalmara Bayne ·

Sent:

Friday, June 22, 2012 11:22 AM

To:

"To: clark patterson"@austintexas.gov; Meredith, Maureen; Cbwidaho; Kirsti Harms

Subject: SUBJECT: Backup for NPA-2012-0025.01/ C14-2012-0016

Attachments:

dalmara bayne.vcf

This property is a living example of Texas ecological and historical heritage; i.e. a type of grassland-primarily Savannah. Having these types of properties in urban settings is critical to educating both children and the community at large through: 1) Living examples of Texas Heritage-less than 1% of the original 20million acres in Texas remains today 2) Public education about the relevance of these habitats to many issues facing Texas today; grasslands increase water quality and quantity-by filtration and retention and due to their deep root systems are drought resistant and mitigate for both fire and flooding which often follow droughts. They provide critical habitat for many threatened species-grassland birds are listed as the number one suite of threatened birds by the OPJV (USFWS) and this habitat is also given top priority by TPWD Action Plan-pollinators critical to sustainable land economics and numerous other species make this habitat their home; including the horned lizard. This property is also a living example of the ecological systems underpinning sustainable land practices.

It is, however, generally not feasible to acquire these important examples of Texas History due to the high cost of property in urban areas. But the residents of this community have raised a significant amount of money to help preserve this important space. And both NPAT and the community being sympathetic to AISD's economic problems have presented numerous scenarios where other benefits (including funds) could be brought to bear. Further, I understand that this is a difficult time for many, but many would also agree that practicing short term non sustainable thinking and actions will not only not solve our collective problems, but is also what helped to create our current dilemmas.

This is not an issue of preservation vs. development, but rather weighing all of the benefits on either side of the equation and making a decision that reflects not only sustainable economics, but also the merits of quality of life. Issues, which I am sure Council Members know, are of great concern to all Austin residents/neighborhoods. Once you weigh the facts, I think it will become evident that any tax revenues provided by such a small development will: 1) negatively affect the value of other properties in the meighborhood (the value of properties in subdivisions with this type of open space exceed appreciation experienced by neighborhoods without 2) create significant public costs in terms of services 2) reduce the quality of life 3) adversely affect water quality/resources 4) diminish habitat of threatened species 5) Destroy a unique cost effective educational opportunity (this property is close to several schools-i.e. workable field trips). Therefore, I strongly and respectfully urge you to seek a solution that will serve Austin's present and future needs; demonstrating a model that serves everyone's best interests.

Respectfully yours,

Dalmara Bayne, ED, NPAT

#### Meredith, Maureen

From:

Anthony Peterman

Sent:

Monday, June 25, 2012 1:01 PM

To:

Leffingwell, Lee; Cole, Sheryl; Spelman, William; Martinez, Mike [Council Member]; Riley,

Chris; Tovo, Kathie; Morrison, Laura

Cc:

Williams, Nancy; Anderson, Greg; Moore, Andrew; Bojo, Leah; Gerbracht, Heidi; Levinski,

Robert; Harden, Joi; Halley, Shannon; Patterson, Clark; Meredith, Maureen; 'Bill Sigler';

'TCCSA Board'; tclp@ ...; trustees@austinisd.org

Subject:

Zoning Case #: NPA-2012-0025.01/ C14-2012-0016RE -- Travis Country Home Owners

Association Opposed to Proposed Zoning Change to the AISD Property in Travis Country

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I am contacting you as President of the Board of the Travis Country home owner's association (TCCSA) regarding the above zoning matter that will be on the agenda for your June 28 Council meeting. Thank you again for your service to Austin and your time and attention to this matter. It is an emotional and by its nature polarizing issue for our Travis Country community. To the extent any of you or your staff is available, I would be happy to talk with you. Please contact me via email.

I want to address two things in this email. <u>First</u>, I want to communicate the position of the TCCSA Board in motions approved unanimously at our June 21 Board meeting last week, with one Board member absent. We ask that you consider this and vote at your June 28 meeting consistent with these TCCSA motions:

(a) Motion: In connection with the proposed re-zoning of the AISD property requested by Independent Realty, the TCCSA Board of Directors is opposed to any zoning change.

(b) Motion: The TCCSA Board of Directors supports the City of Austin City Council allowing the use of transfer of impervious cover for any future bid on the AISD tract.

Second, I want to clarify four issues and eliminate uncertainty there may be about them:

## (a) There has been ongoing communication between the TCCSA Board and the developer Independent Realty (IR):

- There have been months of communication (brief timeline below). To the extent there is a disconnect, it is the content of information.
- The disconnect with content is exemplified by looking to the example of the #1 request for information by the TCCSA Board.
- Request #1 was for: "A conceptual lot layout (number, size and location of lots, WQ/detention facilities, and open space)." For reference, the whole requested list #1-7 is below in my June 4 email to you.
- It was and is the TCCSA Board's view that a lot layout is foundational to a full understanding of IR's proposed development project. TCCSA Board needs to see specifics as opposed to ideas and aspirations that could change.
- IR's response was and remains that it will not provide a lot layout -- none will be available until after zoning is completed and development underway.
- At the June 7 Council meeting, the TCCSA Board was completely surprised to see the "helipad" zoning format for the first time.

- Although the new format had been shared and revised for weeks with City staff, the TCCSA Board had not seen it until Council meeting.
- After the meeting, the TCCSA Board repeated its request for a lot layout. The "helipad" surprise underscored the need for specifics.
- IR repeated that a lot layout would not be available and provided only a copy of the "helipad" zoning format from the Council meeting.
- The content of information has remained the same since then.

#### Brief Timeline:

- January 29 -- presentation by IR to the TCCSA Board and community as part of the agenda of the January Board meeting.
- February 29 -- Board approved and organized community meeting with IR at the Travis Country community pavilion.
- March 6, 12, 13 -- Board requested #1-7 information needed for full consideration, and IR responded with some information and made clear the rest would remain unanswered until after zoning.
- April 11 -- Travis Country annual home owner's meeting with open forum for comments
   -- opportunity for this topic during comments, but no mention of it was made.
- May, June -- Email communications among the TCCSA Board and IR about the requests. As of June 6, Board still requesting information, and IR still answering some and leaving others unanswered.
- June 7 -- Issue on City Council agenda. First time TCCSA Board has seen the very different "helipad" zoning format from IR.
- June 7 to date -- Board repeats request and IR repeats response, except for forwarding the new "helipad" zoning request.
- o June 21 -- Board votes on and approves above motions at June Board meeting based on available information.

## (b) The TCCSA Board is allowed to spend money to purchase land or rights in land based on an approved Board motion:

- TCCSA purchased 10 acres at the front of the community a number of years ago for about \$145,000 in community funds based on an approved Board motion.
- TCCSA purchase about 3 acres in a transaction that closed April 19, 2012, for about \$7600 based on an approved Board motion.
- TCCSA has received confirmation from its outside legal counsel that purchasing land and rights in land like a conservation easement based on an approved Board motion is within the Board's authority.
- The TCCSA Board voted last Fall to spend up to \$145,000 to support a Native Prairies (NPAT) bid to purchase a conservation easement on the AISD land at issue. That bid was submitted in November 2011 and was not selected by AISD.
- The NPAT bid provided value to AISD in the form of: (a) about \$240,000 cash, and (b) retained value for TDR's (assuming Council action to allow that). The second part we estimated at \$1.3 million of value based on comparison to AISD's actual land cost of \$230,000 in 2007 buying rights needed to expand Kiker elementary. To make it more concrete, we had outside counseleprepare and provided to AISD a draft amendment to the land development standards agreement.

- The TCCSA Board received a Treasurer's report as a standard agenda item at last week's June 21 meeting.
- TCCSA currently has over \$700,000 cash in bank and money market accounts. After fully paying for a recent pool renovation/repair, TCCSA will still have more than \$650,000.
- TCCSA's income from home owner's dues exceeds its operating budget by about \$100,000 per year. That excess is reserved and allocated to capital items like facilities and land.
- If TCCSA were to immediately fund \$145,000 to purchase a conservation easement, it would still have more than \$500,000 in cash.
- TCCSA has a formal reserve study that outlines expected capital costs and reserve levels needed for the community. That study is used to inform our decisions as to reserves and capital spending.
- A current reserve of \$500,000 together with income \$100,000 greater than operating budget would still place TCCSA in a more than acceptable position with regard to its reserve study.
- For example, even if TCCSA were to need to spend \$250,000 on a facility like its Blue Valley
  pool, that amount could be paid and replenished in two and a half years or the project delayed
  and paid in full after that same time.

#### (c) The TCCSA community balance of opinion is weighted towards opposing any zoning change:

- The TCCSA Board has received many communications over the months of this issue dating back a couple of years.
- The community is divided with some having very strong opinions on both sides of the issue.
- Based on communications received, that the balance of opinion is weighted towards opposing any zoning change and towards preservation. It is very heavily weighted that way among the residents living closest to the AISD land.

Regards,

Anthony Peterman

Board President

Travis Country Community Service Association

From: Anthony Peterman F-

Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 11:42 AM

To: 'Lee.Leffingwell@austintexas.gov'; 'Sheryl.Cole@austintexas.gov'; 'Bill.Spelman@austintexas.gov';

'Mike.Martinez@austintexas.gov'; 'Chris.Riley@austintexas.gov'; 'Kathie.Tovo@austintexas.gov';

'Laura.Morrison@austintexas.gov'
Cc: 'Bill Sigler'; 'TCCSA Board'; 'tclp@

Subject: Opposed to Proposed Zoning Change to the AISD Property in Travis Country

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

First, I want to thank you for your service to Austin and for the complex and difficult work you do on Council.

Second, I am the current President of the board of the Travis Country home owner's association, and I wanted briefly to clarify the situation around the AISD land in the center of Travis Country for which a rezoning vote is coming before Council.

The Travis Country community has been and remains very interested in the process and the future of the AISD land. During the AISD bid process, the community did not oppose from the sidelines, but instead joined a bid with the Native Prairies Association of Texas ("NPAT") with significant funds pledged and matching funds approved by the board of the Travis Country. That bid totaled almost \$250,000. However, it was not accepted by AISD at least partly due to the bid involving the idea of retaining value for AISD in the form of future development offsets -- such use, although consistent with precedent, first needs Council action to be allowed. Although it was not selected, the bid shows a level of commitment in the Travis Country community to participate in a thoughtful alternative to development.

With regard to the selected bid from Independent Realty, the Travis Country board in March requested detailed information (outlined below) from the potential developer in order to be fully informed. Having not received that information, our board voted to defer any action or consideration on the zoning request and any related zoning conditional overlays or private agreements. The Travis Country board also voted to submit a petition stating that it was thus opposed to the requested re-zoning application. The situation has remained in that state since.

#### For reference, the information requested:

- 1. A conceptual lot layout (number, size and location of lots, WQ/detention facilities, and open space);
- 2. Topographic and tree surveys;
- 3. Environmental assessments and/ or engineering reports (we understand there may be Water Quality Transition Zones and Critical Environmental Features that impair development);
- 4. Impervious cover calculations for both water quality and zoning (including net site area, assumptions for each lot, and impervious cover for adjacent roadways);
- 5. The proposed height and size of the homes, impervious cover on each lot, and setbacks on each lot;
- 6. The terms of any proposed use of TCCSA community facilities;
- 7. Reasonably demonstrate ability to comply with applicable City of Austin regulations.

#### Regards,

Anthony Peterman
Board President
Travis Country Community Service Association

#### Meredith, Maureen

From:

PatE3

Sent:

Monday, June 25, 2012 6:30 PM

To:

Loffingwoll Los: Colo Chand Dilay Chair Ma

. . .

Leffingwell, Lee; Cole, Sheryl; Riley, Chris; Martinez, Mike [Council Member]; Tovo, Kathie; Morrison, Laura; Spelman, William; Williams, Nancy; Anderson, Greg; Moore, Andrew; Bojo,

Leah; Gerbracht, Heidi; Levinski, Robert; Harden, Joi; Halley, Shannon

Cc:

Patterson, Clark, Meredith, Maureen

Subject:

NPA-2012-0025.01/ C14-2012-0016: Property in Travis Country

Attachments: PEpstein\_Letter2Council\_Attachments.pdf

#### Dear Mayor Leffingwell & City Council Members:

My name is Pat Epstein, and I am a member of the Travis Country HOA Board of Directors. It has come to our attention that you may have received information about our HOA that is incorrect. This email is intended to clarify any misinformation you might have received.

- 1. The Travis Country Community Service Association (TCCSA or HOA) Board voted 6/0/0, "To match dollar for dollar contributions up to \$145,000 to NPAT [Native Prairies Association of Texas] for a bid to purchase a conservation easement on the AISD lot." The total amount of individual pledges plus the HOA's match was over a quarter of a million dollars, all of which was raised in 4 weeks.
- 2. TCCSA is a financially stable, solvent organization and fully capable of matching pledges to the Native Prairies Association while easily meeting its ongoing obligations. Please see the attached balance sheet dated 5/31/2012 showing that TCCSA has total assets of \$738,239.31.
- 3. Both precedent (prior land purchases within the neighborhood) and legal opinion support the ability and legality of TCSSA matching pledges to the Native Prairies Association. See attached letter from HOA attorney Greg Cagle.
- 4. A broad and diverse group of Travis Country homeowners support conservation of the property, including people who live far away, and an overwhelming majority of those living near the property. Of the residents who have taken the time to email the HOA Board regarding this issue, a sizeable majority has urged the Board to support conservation of the property.
- 5. 325 homeowners pledged to the Native Prairies Association conservation campaign, and hundreds more have participated in the conservation effort. See the attached list and letters that reflect continuing support for conservation of this property, in addition to the scores of homeowners who attended the City Council meeting on June 7.
- 6. The elected Board has consistently voted, either unanimously or 8–1, to support conservation and the homeowners who live within 200 feet of the property. Independent Realty's comments that there is a second HOA which supports his bid is false. There is only one HOA and one duly elected HOA Board of Directors.
- 7. Homeowners who support conservation have regularly and actively participated in HOA meetings and public hearings for over two years. They have regularly reported their activities to the TCCSA Board and the neighborhood at large (via email, our HOA newsletter, and hand delivered flyers). They have consistently answered questions and provided information to the TCCSA Board when asked to do so, as has the Native Prairies Association of Texas.
- The TCCSA Board invited Independent Realty to speak at an HOA Board meeting, made HOA
  owned facilities available so he could hold a public forum in the neighborhood, and his
  neighborhood advocates have published material in the HOA newsletter on more than one
  occasion.
- 9. TCCSA's Board submitted multiple written requests for information Independent Realty. To date, the Board has not received the information requested.

10. Independent Realty did not notify the Board prior to making major changes in his zoning application, and to date has not offered details about their changed plan. Furthermore, IR has not been forthcoming about the project details that the Board would expect and require from any other bidder under the same circumstances. Independent Realty has had ample opportunity to work with the HOA and make his case to the Board and homeowners; he has failed to do either. His contention that the TCCSA Board has refused to communicate with him is simply not accurate. (See the timeline in the email from HOA Board President dated 6/26/2012.)

At our June 21, 2012, Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted 8-0 to support conservation of this property. We also voted 8-0 to support any efforts made by the City of Austin and AISD to find a way to create a win-win-win for the City, AISD, and the residents who live in our neighborhood and who we, as an HOA, represent. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 512.906.1737 or

Thank you,

Pat Epstein
Travis Country HOA Board of Directors
Former School Board Trustee, Richardson ISD

4813 Trail Crest Circle Austin, TX 78735 512.906.1737 (Home) 972.849.5001 (Cell) PatE3

#### Page 1 5/31/2012 03:12 AM

# Balance Sheet (Cash) Travis Country CSA, Inc. - (TRC) May 2012

Prepared For:
Travis Country CSA, Inc.
4504 Travis Country Circle
Austin, TX 78735

Prepared By:
Goodwin Management Inc
11149 Research Blvd, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78759-5227

#### **ASSETS**

CASH	
Cash- Checking Acct	8,598.71
Cash - MMA	54,509.34
Cash - Association Capital Res	179,794.50
Cash - Commerce National MMA	248,859.70
Cash - BB&T MMA	245,727.06
TOTAL CASH	737,489.31
OTHER ASSETS	
Prepaid FIT-Form 1120	750.00
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	750.00
TOTAL ASSETS	738,239.31

#### **LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

#### LIABILITIES

EQUITY Fund Change-Current Year Fund Change-2002 Fund Change-2003 Fund Change-2004 Fund Change-2005 Fund Change-2006 Fund Change-2007 Fund Change-2008 Fund Change-2009 Fund Change-2010 Fund Change-2010 Fund Change-2011 Fund Balance Difference on Brokerage Acct Tran From Prior Mgmt TOTAL FUND BALANCE	S.	-24,314.39 -34,265.00 -25,555.39 31,193.55 -15,439.96 -20,444.62 89,254.20 -35,269.11 74,675.19 60,364.80 132,663.01 446,912.45 3,026.78 55,437.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		738,239.31

From: anthony peterman(

To: CC:

#### Sent: 6/4/2012 11:34:25 A.M. Central Daylight Time

Mark Carroll's email correctly points out the provisions of the Association's Articles of Incorporation that concern the powers of the Association. As also pointed out, such provisions expressly require the approval of members in order for the Association to pledge personal or real property as collateral for a loan or to merge the Association with another nonprofit corporation, but omit any reference to requisite membership approval as a condition to the exercise of any of the other powers vested in the Association. I interpret Frank's last email to inquiry as to whether the Board may exercise a power generically vested in the Association under its Articles of Incorporation or whether it takes membership approval to exercise such power because it vests the power in the "Association" but does not expressly vest such power in the "Board of Directors."

The short answer is that the Board of Directors may unilaterally exercise the powers vested in Association unless such powers are expressly reserved to the membership or expressly requires the consent or approval of the membership. Section 7.01(c) of the Association's bylaws states that "the Board of Directors shall have a power to: . . . (c) exercise for the Association all powers, duties and authority vested in or delegated to this Association and not reserved to the membership by other provisions of these By-Laws, the Articles of Incorporation, or the Declaration." This is consistent with nonprofit corporations that managed by a Board of Directors, as opposed to its membership.

I hope this resolves the issues. Please let me know if I can be of additional service.

Gregory S. Cagle Savrick Schumann Johnson McGarr Kaminski & Shirley, L.L.P. DATE:

July 6, 2011

TO:

**AISD Board of Trustees** 

President Mark Williams, Vice President Vincent Torres, Secretary Lori Moya,

Cheryl Bradley-Dist.1, Sam Guzman-Dist. 2, Christine Brister-Dist. 3, Robert Schneider-Dist. 7, Annette LoVoi-Dist.8, Tamala Barksdale-Dist. 9

RE:

12.45 acres at 4806 Trail West Drive in Travis Country

Dear Trustees,

It has come to our attention that Waterloo Development withdrew its bid on the 12.45 acre tract in Travis Country. This creates an opportunity to discuss the future of this land. One possibility could include the purchase of the property by the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) while allowing AISD to retain impervious cover/development offsets that could be used when AISD constructs another facility in Southwest Austin.

Even with the land under contract with Waterloo Development, more than \$50,000 dollars were pledged to NPAT to purchase and preserve the tract, and we are optimistic that now that the bid has been withdrawn, the pledge drive will raise the necessary funds given a reasonable amount of time. We ask that AISD refrain from putting the property up for bid.

We are mindful of AISD's financial needs and believe that those may be met while preserving this land in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and Barton Springs Watershed. We look forward to your participation in our effort to prevent the negative environmental impact that would result from development on this environmentally sensitive land which is currently a pristine example of a native savannah in our urban core. We thank the AISD Board for acknowledging so many of Travis Country's public and individual communications regarding preservation of this land.

The Board of Directors of the Travis Country Community Service Association (TCCSA) fully supports the effort to preserve this property. We look forward to working together to create a mutually beneficial outcome for AISD, our community and Austin's watershed.

Sincerely,

Frank Bryan, Travis Country Homeowner

Dalmara Bayne, Executive Director, NPAT

Travis Country Homeowners: -

Mike Bourland, Trudic Weatherford, Leigh Ziegler, Charlie & Cynthia Wilcox, Maguerite Baca, Susie McClendon, Michael Wellman, Theresa Rutz, Kyle ZumBerge, Gerald & Kim Benard, Marion Mlotok, Pat and Randy McLerran, Greg and Katie Bourgeois, Vanessa Chiapetta MD, Isaac Bersuker, Betty Mading, Rita Williams, Tom Hokanson, Heather Andrus, Nancy Daley, Rebecca Pratt, Donna Parks, Joy M. Schiller, Debbie & Laren Schiller, Ron & Kathryn Buys, Sasan & Rie Askari, Virginia M. Lewis, James D. Sirockman, Tom Hammond, Rollin & Debbie Breed, Bryant & Nancy Jewell, Larry & Linda Farrow, Larry & Beth West, Julie Goodrich, Ken & Katy Domuczicz, Matthew & Mary McDermott, Larry & Beth West, Robert & Nancy Leos, Clarence N. & Lisa W. Sutton, Johnny M. Gross, Jerry L. Fischer, Jerry & Meredith Galvan, Paula Bacon, Russell & Margot Pinkston, Margot Booth, Mark & Pat Epstein

cc: Anthony Peterman, President, TCCSA
Trudic Weatherford, Chairman, TC Land Preservation Committee

**DATE:** October 13, 2011

**TO:** AISD Board of Trustees

Dr. Meria Carstarphen, Superintendent of the Austin Independent School District

**RE:** Support for the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) Bid to Purchase the

12.45 Acres Located at 4806 Trail West Drive in Travis Country

Dear Trustees and Dr. Carstarphen,

Those of us signing this letter are representative of the vast majority of residents throughout Travis Country who would like to see the land currently owned by the Austin Independent School District (AISD) deep in the heart of our neighborhood remain a natural greenspace in perpetuity. To achieve this goal, we urge you to accept the bid proffered by the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT).

The NPAT bid is the only opportunity not only to preserve this natural site for future generations -- it is the only opportunity to create a *win-win-win* outcome for our neighborhood, the environment, and AISD.

A win for Travis Country: The land will remain in its natural state for use by residents as it has been for the last 40+ years, e.g., leisurely strolls along its many trails, gathering with neighbors to launch our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and other activities, etc. The safety and well-being of our residents will be protected from multiple years of development deep in the heart of our neighborhood. Travis Country residents, particularly our children, will not be exposed to either toxic development or permanent toxic retention ponds (required for development over the Aquifer) in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

A win for the environment: This land lies in the Edward's Aquifer recharge zone, the Barton Creek and Barton Springs watersheds, includes possible karsts, and provides natural filtration for Austin's water quality. It is home to multiple heritage oaks, wildlife, and native grasses. There are precious few of such parcels left in the interior of Austin; as stewards, it is imperative that we work together to ensure the health and well-being of those living here today and future generations.

A win for AISD: NPAT's bid is \$20,000+ per acre for the conservation easement only, which exceeds the \$19,000 per acre spent by the City of Austin to purchase the land and conservation easement on the Spillar Ranch tract in the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone (http://tinyurl.com/3thn5tt). Furthermore, the NPAT bid allows AISD to retain potential future use of the land for development offset, e.g., to assist in the construction of a new high school for South Austin or for expansion of existing facilities that have reached their impervious cover limit. The offset would allow AISD to reduce the amount of new land

needed and significantly reduce future land purchase expenses. This makes the fully combined value of the NPAT bid greater than the other bids submitted.

Prior to the collapse of the first bidding process, more than \$50,000 had been pledged to NPAT to purchase the tract in the event that process did fall through. Within three weeks of the second bid process being initiated, almost \$254,000 were pledged from our neighborhood, including from the Travis Country HOA.

Rather than inundate you with 100 letters, we chose to show our solidarity with one letter. Our neighborhood is united behind the initiative to preserve this environmentally sensitive land in its natural state. We implore you to accept the NPAT bid and create a *win-win-win* for everyone involved.

Thank you,

#### **Residents of Travis Country**

Gladys Almaguer Chris Armstrong Alan Assberg Laura Assberg Marguarite Baca Thomas W. Baca Paula Bacon Larry Baird Susan Battle Linda Bell Sonia Berry Steve Berry Vicky Bledsoe Mike Bourland Debbie Breed Rollin Breed Frank W. Bryan, Jr. Kate Burgess **Ed Burgess** Richard Burnight Ronald E. Buys Richard Cain **David Carruthers** Don Casteter Susan Casteter Dr. Vanessa Chiapetta Thomas Clarkson Christina Comer Lee Crawford Steven Crosley Jack Crump Janice DeMartino Katy Domuczicz Ken Domuczicz Amy Donaldson Ella Dorsett Elizabeth Dorsett

Katherine Dorsett Thomas Dorsett Dan Felps Mark Epstein Pat Epstein Jerry Fischer Marilyn Fischer Dan Flannery Jill Flannery Meredit Galvan Jerry Galvan Lisa Geiger Candy Goodrich John Goodrich Jeff Greilich John Hall Peggy Hall Tom Hokanson Joan Hokanson Erika Hook Jason Hook Patricia Ilgenstein Temple B. Ingram, Jr. Barbara Jansen **Brooks Perkins-Jechow** Bryce Perkins-Jechow Bryant Jewell Nancy Jewell Dennis Jistel Kelsey Jistel Susan Jistel Brad Johnson Thanet Johnson Billie Jean Jones Suzy Juncker Cammi Klier John Klier

Dave Krieger Barton Lane Dennis L. Lanning Debbie Lauderdale Robert H. Leos, Ph.D. Nancy Leos Pam Losefsky Ron Losefsky Gary Lopes B. J. Mading Katherine Mahoney **Emily Matthews** Gabriella Matthews Erin Matwey Susan McClendon Pat McLerran Randy McLerran Melanie Miller Jeff Miller Marion Mlotok Karen Monteith Bill Morton Deborah Morton Donna Parks George Parks Deena Perkins Perry Phillips Sue Phillips Rebecca Gene Pratt Angeline Pruitt Nancy Quesada Sarah Reves Julius Rivera Linda Rivera Wayne Roberson Theresa Rutz Carol Scanlon

Tim Scanlon Laura Schickel Debbie Schiller Donna Schilller Joy Schiller Kelly Schiller Laren Schiller James Sirockman Dana Stripling **David Sundstrom Donna Sundstrom** Clarence Sutton Lisa Sutton Cactus Tanner Gina Tanner Rufus Tanner Charles Vickers James Wangermann Trudie Weatherford Christine Welch Cathryn Wellman Michael Wellman Beth West Larry West Charlie Wilcox Cynthia Wilcox Sherri Williams Gary Williams Laura Wooley Ryan Wooley Diane Wright Leigh P. Ziegler The Zierer Family Kyle Zumberge Robin Zumberge

From: Anthony Peterman [mailto.

Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 11:14 PM

To: trustees@austinisd.org; superintendent@austinisd.org Cc: pturner@austinisd.org; mwaxler@austinisd.org; board@

**Subject:** AISD Lot in Travis Country

Dear Trustees & Superintendent Carstarphen:

I am contacting you regarding the sale of the property at 4806 Trail West Drive. On behalf of the community, we look forward to a positive outcome for AISD, the environment, Austin's watershed, and our Travis Country neighborhood as a result of the sale.

After reviewing the bids that were submitted, we wanted to echo what we have said in Travis Country's past communications supporting preservation of this sensitive green space & watershed and opposing any development on the land. We also wanted to clarify that Travis Country's board has not met or worked with the recently formed LLC Independent Realty, or Universal Gas Utilities LLC, based out of apartment #1931 at 8515 Brodie Lane.

Consistent with our perspective, there is widespread support in Travis Country for the Native Prairies Association's proposal to preserve the land in perpetuity. At our August Board meeting, the Travis Country Board voted unanimously to match pledges to the Native Prairies Association effort. We feel the bid is a great win-win path forward for this property that contains many heritage oaks, lies in the Edward's Aquifer recharge zone, lies in the Barton Creek and Barton Springs watersheds, has possible karsts and provides natural filtration for Austin's water quality.

When evaluating it, we hope you will consider the full combined value of the Native Prairies Association's bid - the cash amount coupled with the retained development offset rights and benefit to Austin's water quality. The Native Prairies Association's bid is over \$20,000 per acre for the conservation easement only. This exceeds the \$19,000 per acre the City of Austin recently spent to purchase the land and the conservation easement on the Spillar Ranch tract in the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone (http://tinyurl.com/3thn5tt). And, the bid retains for AISD potential future use of the land for development offset, for example to assist in the construction of a new high school planned for South Austin. That offset would allow AISD to reduce the amount of new land needed and significantly reduce the cost of land purchase expenses. We believe the full combined value of the bid is quite competitive with or exceeding other bids submitted.

Regards,

Board of Directors of the Travis Country Community Service Association

Mark Carroll John McCulloch Leonard Saenz Kay Colvin Anthony Peterman Paul Salazar Tom Curran Wendy Primeaux George Stokes

DATE:

November 10, 2011

TO:

AISD Board of Trustees

Dr. Meria Carstarphen, Superintendent of the Austin

Independent School District

RE:

Support for the Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT)
Bid to Purchase the 12.45 Acres Located at 4806 Trail West Drive

in Travis Country

Dear Trustees and Dr. Carstarphen,

This document includes multiple pictures of the land about which Travis Country residents have been emailing, calling, and writing you about for the past one-and-a-half years. We wanted to personalize it for you -- for you to see it in its still natural and undeveloped state. For almost 40 years, this land has rested peacefully in the heart of our neighborhood. We would like to see it do so for at least another 40 years.



Just one of the many heritage oaks located on the property.

We know this land is a bit of an abstraction for the Trustees and AISD professionals.

But for us, it's a reality... one onto which we step from our front and back doors - one we cherish daily and have treasured and cared for like it is our own.

We know AISD is the rightful owners of this land. We know AISD has the right to sell it to whomever they choose. But we ask that you think in terms of the long term, for us but also for AISD. By accepting the Native Prairies Association of Texas bid, AISD makes the statement that:

- You value people and neighborhoods over developers;
- You aren't afraid to think creatively;
- You care about Austin's neighborhoods and the people who live in them day in, day out;
- You recognize Travis Country's historic, longstanding support for all AISD initiatives, including much needed tax revenue increases and bonds;
- You are aware of Travis Country residents' historically strong volunteerism in our neighborhood schools;
- You are good stewards of the taxpayers investment, i.e., you will maximize bond dollars by using a development offset to make the construction of new school(s), efficiently using the smallest land purchase possible;
- You are good stewards of sensitive habitat;
- You care about the Austin's environment and the watershed now and in the future;
- You choose not to pollute Barton Creek and Barton Springs with runoff from new development just uphill of Barton Creek;
- You choose not to disturb the unique, irreplaceable endangered cave and karst species habitat that is only in this
  tiny area of Central Texas that this property resides in; and
- You truly want to be partners with the neighborhoods that comprise AISD.

Please take the time to review the materials included in this packet. We, the residents of Travis Country, are pleading with you to accept the NPAT bid. Travis Country isn't just a collection of homes; there are over 4,000 people living here, many of whom sit in AISD classrooms or work and volunteer in AISD schools. The security of our neighborhood, and the preservation of this environmentally sensitive land rest with you and the decision you make. Preserving this land isn't just the "Austin Way," it's the right thing and the financially prudent thing to do for the long term.

THANK YOU FROM JUST A FEW CONCERNED TRAVIS COUNTRY RESIDENTS.

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Larry Baird	Meredit Galvan	Katherine Mahoney	David Sundstrom
Susan Battle	Jerry Galvan	Heather Mapes	Donna Sundstrom
Linda Bell	Lisa Geiger	Emily Matthews	Clarence Sutton
Sonia Berry	Candy Goodrich	Gabriella Matthews	Lisa Sutton
Steve Berry	John Goodrich	Erin Matwey	Cactus Tanner
Dr. Isaac B. Bersuker	Jeff Greilich	Susan McClendon	Gina Tanner
Vicky Bledsoe	John Hall	Mary Lewis-McDermott	Rufus Tanner
Margot Booth	Peggy Hall	Matthew McDermott	Charles Vickers
Mike Bourland	Tom Hammond	Pat McLerran	Jerry Walker
Debbie Breed	Allison Hartman	Randy McLerran	James Wangermann
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Frank W. Bryan, Jr.	Linda Hodges	Jeff Miller	Christine Welch
Kate Burgess	Tom Hokanson	Marion Mlotok	Cathryn Wellman
Ed Burgess	Joan Hokanson	Karen Monteith	Michael Wellman
Richard Burnight	Erika Hook	Bill Morton	Beth West
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#### From Travis Country HOA Board President Anthony Peterman:

#### Email dated June 26, 2012

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I am contacting you as President of the Board of the Travis Country home owner's association (TCCSA) regarding the above zoning matter that will be on the agenda for your June 28 Council meeting. Thank you again for your service to Austin and your time and attention to this matter. It is an emotional and by its nature polarizing issue for our Travis Country community. To the extent any of you or your staff is available, I would be happy to talk with you. Please contact me via email.

I want to address two things in this email. <u>First</u>, I want to communicate the position of the TCCSA Board in motions approved unanimously at our June 21 Board meeting last week, with one Board member absent. We ask that you consider this and vote at your June 28 meeting consistent with these TCCSA motions:

(a) Motion: In connection with the proposed re-zoning of the AISD property requested by Independent Realty, the TCCSA Board of Directors is opposed to any zoning change.

(b) Motion: The TCCSA Board of Directors supports the City of Austin City Council allowing the use of transfer of impervious cover for any future bid on the AISD tract.

<u>Second</u>, I want to clarify four issues and eliminate uncertainty there may be about them:

(a) There has been ongoing communication between the TCCSA Board and the developer Independent Realty (IR):

- There have been months of communication (brief timeline below). To the extent there is a disconnect, it is the content of information.
- The disconnect with content is exemplified by looking to the example of the #1 request for information by the TCCSA Board.
- Request #1 was for: "A conceptual lot layout (number, size and location of lots, WQ/detention facilities, and open space)." For reference, the whole requested list #1-7 is below in my June 4 email to you.
- It was and is the TCCSA Board's view that a lot layout is foundational to a full understanding of IR's proposed development project. TCCSA Board needs to see specifics as opposed to ideas and aspirations that could change.
- IR's response was and remains that it will not provide a lot layout -- none will be available until after zoning is completed and development underway.
- At the June 7 Council meeting, the TCCSA Board was completely surprised to see the "helipad" zoning format for the first time.
- Although the new format had been shared and revised for weeks with City staff, the TCCSA Board had not seen it until Council meeting.
- After the meeting, the TCCSA Board repeated its request for a lot layout. The "helipad" surprise underscored the need for specifics.
- IR repeated that a lot layout would not be available and provided only a copy of the "helipad" zoning format from the Council meeting.

- The content of information has remained the same since then.
- Brief Timeline:
  - o January 29 -- presentation by IR to the TCCSA Board and community as part of the agenda of the January Board meeting.
  - o February 29 -- Board approved and organized community meeting with IR at the Travis Country community pavilion.
  - March 6, 12, 13 -- Board requested #1-7 information needed for full consideration, and IR responded with some information and made clear the rest would remain unanswered until after zoning.
  - o April 11 -- Travis Country annual home owner's meeting with open forum for comments -- opportunity for this topic during comments, but no mention of it was made.
  - May, June -- Email communications among the TCCSA Board and IR about the requests. As
    of June 6, Board still requesting information, and IR still answering some and leaving
    others unanswered.
  - o June 7 -- Issue on City Council agenda. First time TCCSA Board has seen the very different "helipad" zoning format from IR.
  - o June 7 to date -- Board repeats request and IR repeats response, except for forwarding the new "helipad" zoning request.
  - o June 21 -- Board votes on and approves above motions at June Board meeting based on available information.

## (b) The TCCSA Board is allowed to spend money to purchase land or rights in land based on an approved Board motion:

- TCCSA purchased 10 acres at the front of the community a number of years ago for about \$145,000 in community funds based on an approved Board motion.
- TCCSA purchase about 3 acres in a transaction that closed April 19, 2012, for about \$7600 based on an approved Board motion.
- TCCSA has received confirmation from its outside legal counsel that purchasing land and rights in land like a conservation easement based on an approved Board motion is within the Board's authority.
- The TCCSA Board voted last Fall to spend up to \$145,000 to support a Native Prairies (NPAT) bid to
  purchase a conservation easement on the AISD land at issue. That bid was submitted in
  November 2011 and was not selected by AISD.
- The NPAT bid provided value to AISD in the form of: (a) about \$240,000 cash, and (b) retained value for TDR's (assuming Council action to allow that). The second part we estimated at \$1.3 million of value based on comparison to AISD's actual land cost of \$230,000 in 2007 buying rights needed to expand Kiker elementary. To make it more concrete, we had outside counsel prepare and provided to AISD a draft amendment to the land development standards agreement.

#### (c) TCCSA could fund \$145,000 without impacting the community's financial stability:

- The TCCSA Board received a Treasurer's report as a standard agenda item at last week's June 21 meeting.
- TCCSA currently has over \$700,000 cash in bank and money market accounts. After fully paying for a recent pool renovation/repair, TCCSA will still have more than \$650,000.
- TCCSA's income from home owner's dues exceeds its operating budget by about \$100,000 per year.
   That excess is reserved and allocated to capital items like facilities and land.
- If TCCSA were to immediately fund \$145,000 to purchase a conservation easement, it would still have more than \$500,000 in cash.
- TCCSA has a formal reserve study that outlines expected capital costs and reserve levels needed for the community. That study is used to inform our decisions as to reserves and capital spending.
- A current reserve of \$500,000 together with income \$100,000 greater than operating budget would still place TCCSA in a more than acceptable position with regard to its reserve study.

• For example, even if TCCSA were to need to spend \$250,000 on a facility like its Blue Valley pool, that amount could be paid and replenished in two and a half years or the project delayed and paid in full after that same time.

## (c) The TCCSA community balance of opinion is weighted towards opposing any zoning change:

- The TCCSA Board has received many communications over the months of this issue dating back a couple of years.
- The community is divided with some having very strong opinions on both sides of the issue.
- Based on communications received, that the balance of opinion is weighted towards opposing any
  zoning change and towards preservation. It is very heavily weighted that way among the
  residents living closest to the AISD land.

#### Regards,

Anthony Peterman

Board President

Travis Country Community Service Association

**From:** Anthony Peterman [mailto:anthony\_peterman@att.net]

Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 11:42 AM

**To:** 'Lee.Leffingwell@austintexas.gov'; 'Sheryl.Cole@austintexas.gov'; 'Bill.Spelman@austintexas.gov'; 'Mike.Martinez@austintexas.gov'; 'Chris.Riley@austintexas.gov'; 'Kathie.Tovo@austintexas.gov';

'Laura.Morrison@austintexas.gov'
Cc: 'Bill Sigler'; 'TCCSA Board'; 'tclp@

Subject: Opposed to Proposed Zoning Change to the AISD Property in Travis Country

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

First, I want to thank you for your service to Austin and for the complex and difficult work you do on Council.

Second, I am the current President of the board of the Travis Country home owner's association, and I wanted briefly to clarify the situation around the AISD land in the center of Travis Country for which a rezoning vote is coming before Council.

The Travis Country community has been and remains very interested in the process and the future of the AISD land. During the AISD bid process, the community did not oppose from the sidelines, but instead joined a bid with the Native Prairies Association of Texas ("NPAT") with significant funds pledged and matching funds approved by the board of the Travis Country. That bid totaled almost \$250,000. However, it was not accepted by AISD at least partly due to the bid involving the idea of retaining value for AISD in the form of future development offsets --such use, although consistent with precedent, first needs Council action to be allowed. Although it was not selected, the bid shows a level of commitment in the Travis Country community to participate in a thoughtful alternative to development.

With regard to the selected bid from Independent Realty, the Travis Country board in March requested detailed information (outlined below) from the potential developer in order to be

fully informed. Having not received that information, our board voted to defer any action or consideration on the zoning request and any related zoning conditional overlays or private agreements. The Travis Country board also voted to submit a petition stating that it was thus opposed to the requested re-zoning application. The situation has remained in that state since.

#### For reference, the information requested:

- 1. A conceptual lot layout (number, size and location of lots, WQ/detention facilities, and open space);
- 2. Topographic and tree surveys;
- 3. Environmental assessments and/ or engineering reports (we understand there may be Water Quality Transition Zones and Critical Environmental Features that impair development);
- 4. Impervious cover calculations for both water quality and zoning (including net site area, assumptions for each lot, and impervious cover for adjacent roadways);
- 5. The proposed height and size of the homes, impervious cover on each lot, and setbacks on each lot;
- 6. The terms of any proposed use of TCCSA community facilities;
- 7. Reasonably demonstrate ability to comply with applicable City of Austin regulations.

#### Regards,

Anthony Peterman
Board President
Travis Country Community Service Association